

# **ESSENTIAL GUIDE OF PRODUCTS FOR HANDICAPPED DOGS**

WITH PARALYSIS, SPINE ISSUES, NEUROLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND ARTHRITIS

This e-book contains affiliate links.  
However, this does not sway my opinion of the products mentioned.

# lessons from a paralyzed dog

a tribute to the fastest runner in the dog park



[Lessons From a Paralyzed Dog](#) began as a tribute to my dog Sophie who was paralyzed for 5 years. My goal is to support pet parents who are facing similar mobility challenges with their own dog. That support comes in the form of sharing information, products, and the latest veterinary research. I want pet owners to have the resources they need to provide the best possible care for their “handi-capable” dog.

Here is a list of the essential products pet parents ask me about most often. Many are products Sophie and I used while others are new products I discovered from other owners. Each case of paralysis is unique so please check with your dog’s veterinarian before using any new product.

“Disability is no the end of your pet’s world;  
it is the beginning of a *new normal* way of life.”  
- Sharon Seltzer, Sophie’s Mom



## PREFERRED RETAILERS

Here are my favorite companies that offer essential products for handi-capable pets:

- [HandicappedPets.com](http://HandicappedPets.com) (Walkin' Pets)
- [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com)
- [Walkabout Harnesses](https://www.walkabout-harnesses.com)
- [Barkertime](https://www.barkertime.com)

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## BEDS

**Orthopedic Dog Bed** – An orthopedic foam mattress will decrease the risk of your dog developing pressure sores. Make sure the bed is washable and has a concave shape. Paralyzed dogs can fall off a flat or puffy pillow shaped bed.

**Waterproof Dog Bed** - Paralyzed dogs are likely to also be incontinent. Because of this, some pet parents prefer a waterproof bed. I like two different types:

- [The SleePee Time Bed](#)<sup>®</sup> lets dogs sleep on a comfortable mesh bed so fluid can flow through and into a tray beneath it.
- [Komfy K9](#) is a quilted plush bed with a comfy inflatable inner mattress. The bed covers are easily removed for laundry.

## HARNESSES

**Lift Harness** – Dogs with spine issues and arthritis that are able to stand upright will benefit from a lift harness that fits around their waist. It gives them extra support while they walk or climb stairs. Two brands I recommend are [Ginger Lead](#) and [Help 'Em Up](#).

**Custom Harnesses & More** – [Walkabout Harnesses](#) offers rear lifting, belly lifting and amputee lifting harnesses along with custom made products for dogs with atrophy. There is also a large selection of products to help dogs with hind end weakness, knee problems or recovery after orthopedic surgery.

## MOBILITY

**Strollers and Doggy Ride Trailers** – These come in a variety of sizes to accommodate every dog. Strollers and dog trailers let pet parents push their disabled dog around so they can enjoy the sights and smells of the outdoors.

**Dog Wheelchair/Cart** - These also come in a wide variety of sizes and can be a miracle for a paralyzed dog. Carts enable a paralyzed dog to be mobile and exercise. Measurements must be taken so the cart (wheelchair) fits properly. It's important to purchase a quality made cart. HandicappedPets.com, Ruff Rollin' and Eddie's Wheels are three quality wheelchair manufacturers.

**Read more about dog wheelchairs in my annual [Dog Wheelchair Review](#).**

**Ramps or Steps** – Dogs that can still walk will benefit from ramps and steps to help them climb into cars and other high places.

## INCONTINENCE SUPPLIES & AIDS

**Dog Diapers and Protection Pee Pads** – Dogs with spinal problems are likely to become incontinent. The best gift you can give your incontinent dog is to learn how to express their bladder. Your veterinarian can teach you how to do this. In addition, have doggie diapers and protective pads on hand at all times for added protection and for nighttime.

**Baby wipes and clean towels** – Having these essential items on hand while you are home or in the car will help you quickly clean up accidents and keep your dog's skin protected from urine scald.

**Washable Dog Diapers, Pajamas & Peejamas** - Dog diapers that fit snugly and can be tossed in the washer to be used again can save pet owners money. [Barkertime](#) has a wide variety of washable diapers and Pajamas that hold disposable diapers in place while they sleep. They also offer [PeeJamas](#) which is a comfy body suit that can be worn after surgery instead of a cone.

**Veterinary recommended shampoo and rinse** – Paralyzed dogs that are incontinent (especially those with long fur) will need to be bathed more often than a healthy dog. Make sure the shampoo and rinse you use are veterinary recommended for being mild and moisturizing.

**Soothing urine scald & other skin problems (see below for more suggestions)** - Incontinent dogs are prone to urine scald that can burn their skin. Here are several products to soothe sensitive areas and keep away yeast overgrowth: American Kennel Tea Tree Oil, Smooth & Cool perineal wash, Vetericyn Wound & Skin Care, EMT Gel, and Neosporin. A self-adherent wrap like Coban or VetWrap helps as well.

**Read more about:** [How To Treat and Prevent Urine Scald in Paralyzed Dogs.](#)

## PROTECTION

**ToeGrips®** - These brightly colored bands were designed by Dr. Julie Buzby, DMV to give dogs with arthritis and neurological problems traction while they walk and let them sense the placement of their paws. Click here for [Toe Grips](#).

**Boots** – [Handicapped Pets](#) and [Walkabout Harness](#) both make durable and breathable boots that protect the paws of a dog that no longer has feeling in them. They are can be used in conjunction with a dog wheelchair/cart so a dog doesn't scrape their paws.

## PROTECTION (CONT.)

**No-Knuckle Sock** – This device keeps a dog’s paws from knuckling under them. It’s a good product to use to protect a dog’s paws when they are slowly losing the ability to walk or when they are recovering from an injury or surgery.

**Drag Bag or Scoot Bag** – Many paralyzed dogs are great at scooting around the house. These dogs benefit greatly from a drag bag or scoot bag that keeps the lower half of their body protected while they pull themselves around the house. You can find these in cute designs at [HandicappetPets.com](http://HandicappetPets.com), [Barkertime](http://Barkertime), and [Doggie Essentials](http://DoggieEssentials).

**Pressure Sores and More Skin Protection** - Some dogs develop sores if their skin rubs on a wheelchair. A small sheepskin pad placed in the area of obstruction can prevent this. [Just Merino Sheepskin](http://JustMerinoSheepskin) is one manufacturer that makes custom sheepskin pads. [Walkabout Harness](http://WalkaboutHarness) offers a compression sleeve to protect against pressure sores. Other products that soothe the skin are: silver sulfadiazine or colloidal silver, over-the-counter antibacterial cream like A&D ointment, and Bactroban. A layer of gauze, baby socks or a vet wrap (Coban wrap) can further protect the skin.

**All Natural Skin Protection** – Manuka honey improves skin from a pressure sore or urine scald. Other products include: Chamomile, hemp oil, coconut oil, aloe vera and vitamin E.

**Onesies to protect the skin** - [Barkertime](http://Barkertime) sells onesies (pajamas) shaped for dogs or protect the skin with a human baby onesie that is modified.